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THE BOOKSHELF

INVITATION TO DANGER

By ALFRED STANFORD

Alfred Stanford, who gave us that wonderful story of the sea, *The Ground Swell*, a few years ago, has come to the front again with his fine story, *Invitation to Danger*. *Invitation to Danger* is a tale that brings us against the stark realism of the sea quite abruptly.

It is the story of a boy, an orphan, who ran away to sea at the age of fifteen, cherishing the memory of Ann Duane, his childhood sweetheart, and his father—a father, who before his ship foundered while rounding Cape Horn, wrote a letter to his infant son charging him to have a proper fear of the sea and always let the “invitation to danger” hover over his head that he might be strong among men.

The boy, Daniel Bover, left New York in 1839 as a cabin boy. He returned in 1847 grim and embittered over the loss of his first command. A first command won after seven years, seven long, hard years in the northwest fur trade, seven years of waiting and planning. All taken away, literally in a moment, by a hungry Cape Horn.

He returned to chaos, his guardian angry with him and his sweetheart in the midst of fashionable New York society, that began and ended out of his sphere.

In despair he turned to the only thing he knew,

ships. He put his small heritage into one of the new clipper ships that Donald McKay, the master builder, was constructing.

As he worked on his ship, one of his own radical design, new strength seemed to flow through his veins and enabled him to carry out his purpose, a purpose grown strong through months of brooding and thinking.

The ship was launched and he found that he had successfully tried something new, for he had the smartest and swiftest clipper ship of the day. The ship, “The Southern Cross,” was outfitted and he sailed for California with his bride, for like all stories we must have a happy ending, and he and Ann Duane were married on the day of his departure.

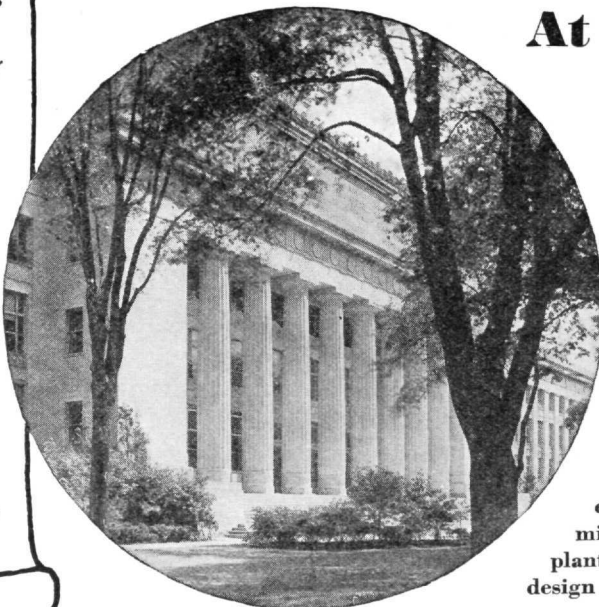
Feeling that he must conquer the shadow of Cape Horn that hung over him and his family, he plotted a course straight south. South past the straits of Magellan and past Wollaston Islands into the Antarctic ocean. After the ship's crew almost froze to death, they struck calm and then eastern winds that blew them into the warm Pacific and a happy ending for everybody.

The story is not a romance, nor a story of adventure and travel, but a story of a man's struggle with himself. Of a man who heeded “Invitation to Danger” and made himself strong among men.

(Continued on Page 26)



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And Jones, his roommate, shows equal determination in football.



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Good training, both of them. Perhaps there is something in high scholarship, too. Industrial leaders of today think so.

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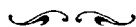
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BOOKSHELF

(Continued from Page 24)

We know that Mr. Stanford is at home in writing of the sea, for he has been a common sailor and an officer in the merchant marine. We also suspect that the story is woven around a family legend, because one of the characters bears Mr. Stanford's grandfather's name.

—J. F. P.

"G. B."

By W. F. MORRIS

The "World's Greatest War" continues to make money, month after month, for enterprising authors, poets, and ex-war officers, as is shown by the list of war stories published each month. It is not necessary to know anything about writing craftsmanship, or about the war for that matter; as long as you can tell of the superior officer who delights in torturing his men, and if you can swear prettily in print your success is assured. Once in a while, however, a war story comes along that stands a little above the others, and in this class I do not hesitate to place "G. B." This book is written by a major in the British army, who seems to have just enough of a plot to warrant the writing of a story. What makes the book stand out, however, is the unusual way in which Mr. Morris develops the plot.

The story is written in three parts as told by Dick Baron, David Gurney, and Gerard Bretherton or "G. B.," as he is called. These men are friends in the same platoon of the British Army, and each tells his part of the weird account of "G. B." who is together a spy, a traitor, and the bravest, most loyal man in the British Army. How Dick Baron hears music coming from a woods which is infested with German machine gun nests and snipers, and finds it to be played by "G. B." in a German officer's uniform, accompanied by a lady in full evening dress, both of whom he sees killed; how David Gurney finds "G. B." queerly sympathetic with the German cause, and associated with missing maps and other information, and finally sees him in the great Somme offensive, charging into the British trenches and actually killing two British soldiers, and then being shot himself, will test your imagination to the utmost. And finally "G. B." 's, own story of how he is captured by the Germans and placed in a prison camp, how he heroically manages to escape, and not

(Continued on Page 28)

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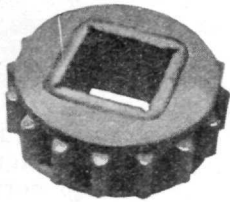


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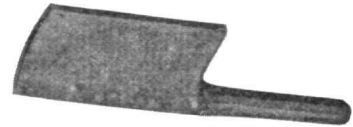
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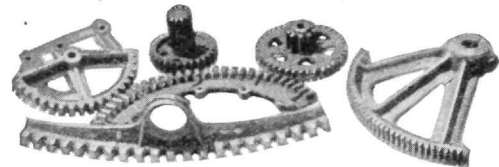
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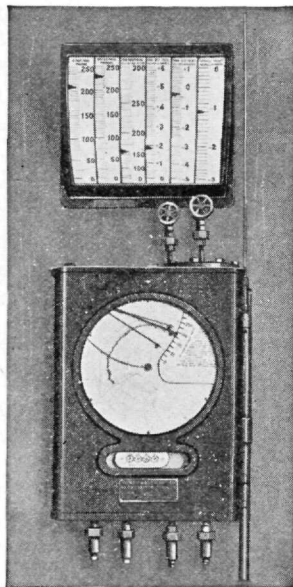
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BOOKSHELF

(Continued from Page 26)

until his buddy is shot before his very eyes and he is dying of hunger and thirst within sight of the British lines, does he finally lose his mind and so explain his startling actions.

The plot, like a detective story, keeps you guessing as to the outcome. The vivid description of dead and dying men, and the associated horrors of war, and the rough humor of war days, sided by a generous sprinkling of oaths and profanity, keeps you both smiling, and gripping your chair in horror. The author is supposed to have drawn on personal experiences, which shows that it is true to life.—J. S.

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BOOKSHELF

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THE BLACK CAMEL

By EARL DERR BIGGERS

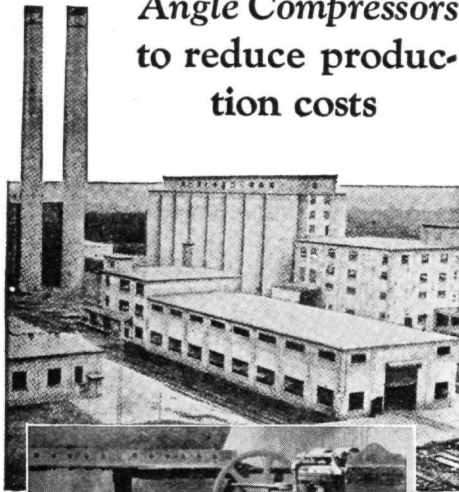
The Black Camel by Earl Derr Biggers is the latest and some say the best of the Charlie Chan stories. The jovial Chinese detective inspector of the Honolulu police force is in his element in this story and acquits himself very creditably by solving the murder of the beautiful but not very much beloved actress Shelah Fane. The story takes place in Honolulu rather than in California, the scene of the preceding Charlie Chan book. The

(Continued on Page 38)

NOVEMBER, 1929

Aerated Cement flows through Pipes, at this modern mill

How another leader of industry uses *Balanced Angle Compressors* to reduce production costs



Two 1872-cu. ft. Balanced Angle Compound Compressors, direct connected to synchronous motors, in the plant of the Lawrence Portland Cement Company, Thomaston, Maine. They supply air for transporting cement, agitating clay and quarry drilling. View of the plant showing the 150,000-barrel silos; and the Fuller-Kinyon pumps.

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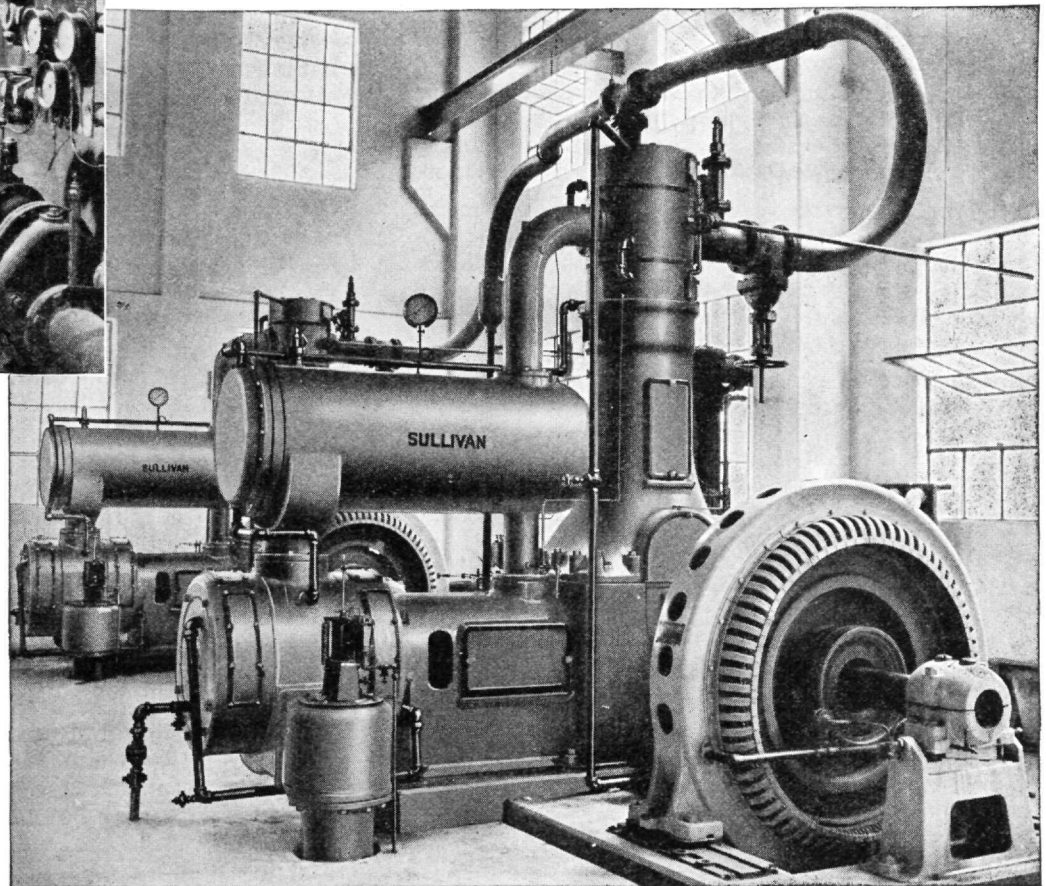
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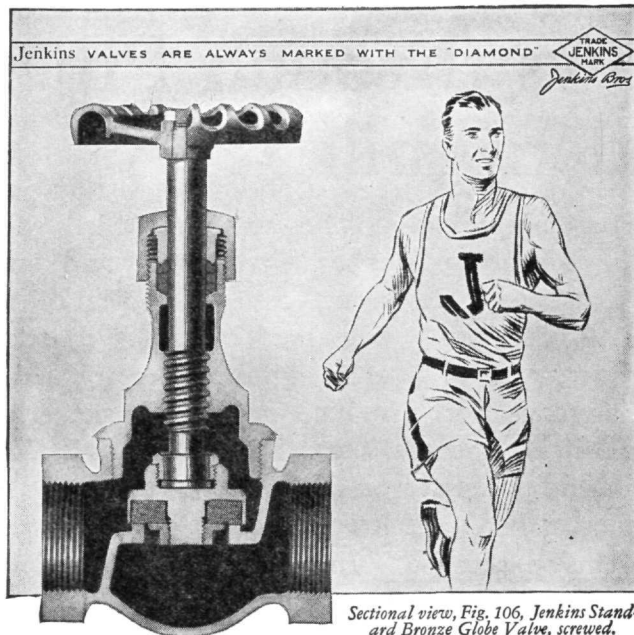


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BOOKSHELF

(Continued from Page 36)

crime is well planned and suspicion fell on everyone but the one who did it. Perseverance wins out in the end however in the form of Detective Chan and the story ends happily for those unjustly suspected. A number of interesting characters are introduced, among them Jimmie Bradshaw, a young American who is employed by a travel agency in Hawaii as a publicity man and who is constantly extolling the beauties and virtues of his adopted country. He falls in love with Julie, the secretary of the actress and manages to find time between his dissertations on Honolulu to tell her that she also is pleasant to associate with and not hard to look at, facts which it would be assumed that she already knew.

The mysterious fortune teller Tarneverro also comes in for his share of suspicion and is a very interesting character. The story is well written and should be placed very high in the ranks of the mystery novels. Its plot is complicated enough to be intriguing but not too fantastic to be real. The quaint philosophy of Charlie Chan is a pleasing diversion from the sordid details of the murder which is enacted in the garden of the victim's resident during a party that she is holding there. The method by which Chan goes about solving the problem is also ingenious as is the murderer's attempt to absolve himself of all blame. It is a very entertaining story that is guaranteed to hold one's attention and to live up to the average reader's standard of a good mystery story. R. M. E.

THE MAN NOBODY KNOWS

By BRUCE BARTON

This is the story of the life of Christ, which is told in such an inspiring way as to place it among the best of the many volumes that have been written on this subject. It is written in an illuminating way and the reader learns more about the Lord in a few pages than he would find anywhere else except in the Bible.

The author treats on various phases in His life by giving some beautiful word picture of an act or series of acts, of the Saviour. Mr. Barton also spends quite a bit of time in pointing out the Jesus was not only "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief," but more often a cheerful character, keeping His own spirits up and also raising other people out of their gloom by His words and deed.

It is an excellent reading for one who is feeling downhearted and will show you that Christ also had many trials and tribulations but was able to stand up under them with amazing fortitude and maintain a cheerful disposition through it all. The story itself is bound to be of interest to any Christian, while the beauty of the author's style and his manner of telling the story would make it interesting reading for anybody, regardless of religious belief.

Bruce Barton is well known in the business world as an advertiser and in the literary world as a writer, and in every thing that he is connected with his name is a byword of honesty and integrity and his reputation is envied by many. He is especially famous for his religious books and articles. R. M. E.